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ABSTRACT

Designed for parents of handicapped and high risk infants and toddlers in rural areas, the booklet discusses ideas for making toys from household items. Toys are grouped into five levels of developmental difficulty from the neonate stage (e.g., using yarn as crib mobiles) to the stage where the child is trying to figure out how things work and fit together (e.g., making a "family" of clothespin people with drawn-on faces and clothes). For each activity, information is provided on the subject area involved, the materials needed, and the procedures involved. (CL)

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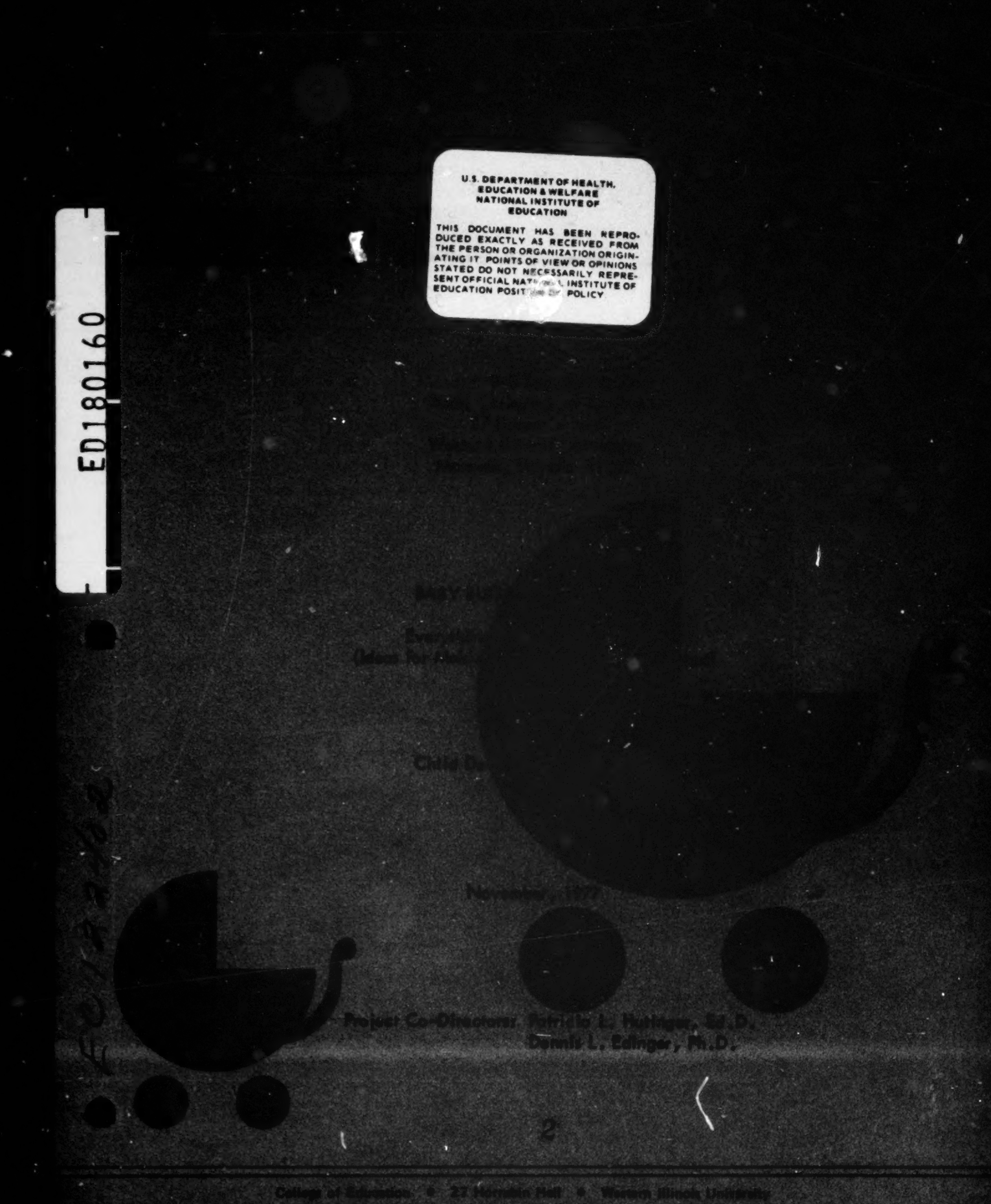

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The Macomb 0-3 Regional Project serves children between birth and three years of age and their parents. Why do we serve parents? Dr. Earl W. Hobbs, superintendent of the Clayton, Missouri, school system and creator of that district's infant project said, "There's a growing amount of research that suggests that kids, in terms of overall development, make it or don't depending upon what their parents do with them between the ages of one and three . . . One of our main purposes is to give parents all the help they need in properly coping with this crucial stage of the life of their child."*

The following pages contain ideas for making toys from materials commonly found in most households.

*Quote from Learning magazine, "Early Childhood Education: Who's Doing What to Whom, and Why?" by Diane Divoky, December, 1976, p. 20.

LEVEL 1

From the time a baby is born until he is moving around (crawling, rolling, or scooting), these toys can be used. After he has begun moving around, be sure to remove any toys that he might knock down on himself.

Area: Use of hands, seeing

Materials: String or yarn, spools from thread, colors (markers, crayons, etc.)

Color the spools, then tie them to rod or crib for the baby to watch and hit.

Allows the child to watch movement of a brightly colored object and to make it move.

Area: Seeing, moving arms

Materials: Bright cloth scrap or ribbon, snap, needle, thread

Cut strip of cloth or ribbon to fit loosely around baby's arm. Sew the snap on the ends to fasten it. Put it on the baby so he can watch it as his arms move.

Allows the child to be aware of movement of his hands and arms.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: String or yarn, thread spools

Put spools on string or yarn and hang them so that when baby hits them they will clatter. Later, they can be used as a pull toy.

Allows child to learn to work his arms and hands.

Area: Seeing

Materials: Colored paper (use ads or funny papers), glue, piece of cardboard

Cut shapes out of colored paper and glue them to the cardboard. Hang it where the baby can see it.

Allows the baby to look at something bright and colorful.

Area: Work with hands

Materials: Large buttons, string, rod (if needed)

Use string or yarn to thread through large buttons. Hang these from crib or rod (mop handle or broomstick) within the baby's reach. Make sure the strings are all the same length so they will rattle when the baby hits them. Clothespins can also be used, but be sure they are fastened tightly by the string. These should not be used after the child has begun moving around, because he may knock them down and get hurt. Be sure any buttons used are too large for the baby to swallow. Make sure the rod (if used) is anchored well so it cannot fall on baby.

Allows baby to create a noise through his movement.

Area: Use of hands and feet

Materials: Plastic lids, string or yarn, broomstick or mop handle

Use paint or markers to make bright designs on the lids. String the lids from the rod (broomstick or mop handle). Prop the rod between two chairs, footstools, etc. Lay the baby on the floor beneath the lids. Be sure the baby can reach the lids. Also be sure the rod is fixed so it can't fall. Let the baby reach for the lids. Seomtimes the rod can be placed by the baby's feet so he can kick it. If a bell or other noise maker is available, put it on the rod, too. Also, alumimum foil pie tins are good to fasten to rod.

This should not be used after the child has begun moving around, because he might knock it down and get hurt.

Allows baby to look at something and to cause it to move by reaching for it or kicking at it.

Area: Sensory, work with hands

Materials: Some kind or powder, brush, cotton, or something to put on powder with

Brush baby powder, corn starch, flour, etc., all over child's body. Don't forget to put it on the hands, feet, back or neck, and face. Older children can put powder on themselves. Often relaxes child.

Allows him to feel the powder on several different areas of his body.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: String or yarn, plastic bottles (colored) with lids

String the bottles together and hang them on a rod or on the baby's crib so they will clatter when he hits them. Put something inside and close the lid tightly for added noise. Can also be fastened so they will make noise when the baby kicks it.

Allows baby to make noise by using hands or feet.

Area: Work with hands

Materials: String or yarn, brightly colored object

Find an object that is not breakable and that is too large to be swallowed. Be sure it has no sharp edges. Tie it onto a string or yarn and dangle it in front of the baby.

Allows child to learn to use his hands better and to learn how to pull the string to get the object.

Area: Seeing, use of hands

Materials: String or yarn, foil pie tins, tin cans, etc.

Tie string through pie tins or cans. Attach these to the crib so baby can watch and try to reach them.

Allows the child to watch something bright that moves, and to practice using his hands.

LEVEL 2

After your baby has begun moving around freely and can use his hands to reach and grab things, these toys can be used. Keep using them until the child no longer wants to play with them.

Area: Thinking, use of hands

Materials: Box with lid that's easy to get off, snack such as Cheerios, teething biscuit

Put snack in box while child is watching. Then put the lid on and give it to the child to take the lid off to get the snack.

Allows the child to find something that is hidden, to learn to open a box, and to feed himself.

Area: Sense of touch

Materials: Sandpaper, cotton balls, coarse cloth, soft cloth (an old washrag would be good), glue, box

Glue the materials in strips in the bottom of the box. Cut a hole in the lid large enough for the child to put his hand in. Put the lid on the box and let the child poke his hand into the box to feel the different textures.

Allows the child to discover by using his sense of touch.

Area: Feeling with hands

Materials: Scraps of different textured materials, needle and thread, old nylons

Sew different kinds of cloth together to make a cube. Before sewing last side on, stuff old nylons inside. If you have no old nylons, sew the cloth together to make a mat. The cube is easy to throw, and is harmless in the house. Both are washable.

Allows child to discover things that feel different. Cube allows child to throw something inside the house that will not break things.

Area: Use of large muscles, hearing, seeing

Materials: Jingle bells or bright object

String bell or bright object (a red button would be good) onto the baby's shoelaces. If the hole in the bell or object is too small, tie it to the shoelace with a short piece or yarn.

Allows the child to move his feet to cause noise or to cause a bright object to pass in front of his eyes.

Area: Use of large muscles, seeing

Materials: Pair of socks, bright scraps of cloth, thread, needle

Cut cloth scraps and sew them onto the socks to form a face. They should be sewn onto the top of the sock with the eyes nearest the toe of the sock, so that when the baby sees the faces, they will be right-side-up.

Allows child to see bright face when his feet move into his area of seeing.

Areas: Use of large muscles, hearing

Materials: Different kinds of lids, spoon

Let child bang the lids with the spoon to see how many sounds he can make.

Allows child to use arms and hands to create different noises to hear.

Area: Use of hands, sense of touch

Materials: Cardboard, things that have a different feel

Glue the things on the cardboard. Use shiny magazine paper, cotton, sandpaper, screen wire, corduroy, etc. Let the child feel the different things while you hold the cardboard. Don't leave the child alone with the cardboard.

Allows the child to use his sense of touch to discover things that feel different.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Plastic bottles of several sizes with lids

Put the lids on the bottles tightly. Then put the bottles in the child's bath water for him to play with.

Allows child to have fun playing during his bath.

Areas: Thinking, use of hands

Materials: Cloth and toy that child likes

Put cloth over the toy after the child starts playing with it, then let him find it.

Allows child to look for something, and to use hands to move cloth.

Area: Thinking, use of hands, hearing

Materials: Any unbreakable kitchen utensils that have no sharp edges

Give child utensils such as pots, pans, lids, plastic bowls, spoons, rubber spatulas, etc., to bang together and experiment to make different kinds of noises.

Allows child to make different noises by himself.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Plastic pill bottles with child-proof lids, rice, dried beans, etc.

Make baby rattles by putting grains of rice, beans, etc., into the bottles. Be sure lids are on tight. Putting different things in different bottles will make each bottle sound different.

Allows child to use hands to make a noise.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Containers, dipper, cup or glass--all unbreakable, water

Give the child the things to play with in the water. Be sure the room and the water are warm because the child is going to get wet. Water can be in the bathtub, sink, or dishpan.

Allows child to have fun playing in water.

LEVEL 3

Make these toys for your child after he has begun walking. Keep using them until the child no longer wants to play with them.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Small box, thread spools

Make a car by fastening a spool on each end of the box. Use a larger box for the garage.

Allows child to practice pushing and pulling and to use his imagination.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Old broom

Let child use an old broom as a horse. If you would like, make a cloth horse's head to slip over the end, or just let the child pretend.

Allows the child to run, and to use his imagination.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Small log

Be sure all sharp places have been sawed off of log. Put the log in the yard and brace it with dirt so it can't roll. This makes a good climbing toy.

Allows the child to practice climbing.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: String or yarn, large bottle with a handle and lid

Tie the string or yarn through the handle of the plastic bottle. Leave a long piece of yarn dangling. The child can then use this as a pull toy. Put something inside to make it rattle.

Allows child to practice pulling something as he walks.

Areas: Use of hands, use of large muscles

Materials: Several boxes, yarn or string

String the boxes together with yarn or string to make a train. Child can put objects in to haul around.

Allows child to push or pull the train. Gives him something to haul things in. Helps him to understand that one thing can be pulled by another.

Area: Large muscles

Materials: Large box, piece of rope

Poke a hole in opposite sides of the box, toward one end. String the rope through and tie it. Child can use the box as a wagon, being pushed or pulled in it, or pushing or pulling his toys.

This also makes a good toy box.

Allows child to move about without walking. Also allows him to put objects inside the box.

Areas: Thinking, use of hands

Materials: Wood scraps, saw, sandpaper

Cut the wood scraps into different shapes and sizes. Sand off all splinters and rough or sharp edges. Let the child use them to build with.

Allows the child to use his imagination and hands to make things.

Areas: Work with hands, thinking

Materials: Cupboard child can reach, pots, pans, lids, plastic bowls and lids, etc.

Put some of your kitchen things in a lower cupboard and allow the child free use of it. The things he plays with can be washed and used when needed. Be sure there is nothing sharp or easily broken in the cupboard.

Allows child to discover how to take off and put on lids, how to put one thing inside another, and how to make a lot of interesting noises.

Areas: Use of large muscles, use of hands

Materials: Milk cartons - any size, tape

Tape the tops of the milk cartons together after they have been washed. Give them to the child to use as blocks. Milk carton blocks can make a lot of different things.

Allows the child to use arms and hands to build a lot of things.

Area: Use of hands in water

Materials: Milk carton, straws (if you want to use them), staples

Fasten the top of the carton shut after it has been washed. Use staples and be sure the ends of the staples are hammered down so they won't hurt the child. Poke holes in one side of the carton and put in plastic straws if you'd like to. Give boat to the child to play with in the bathtub.

Allows child to play in the water.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Paper or foil, toy or snack

Wrap the toy or snack in the paper or foil. Give it to the child to unwrap.

Allows the child to practice unwrapping, and to find something by using hands.

Areas: Thinking, talking

Materials: Mirror, piece of cloth that will cover mirror

Place mirror so child can see in it. If it is breakable, only have it within child's reach while you are with him. Do not use a mirror that has any sharp edges or corners. Put cloth over mirror. Have child lift cloth to see himself. If he doesn't, show him how to do it. Make faces for him to imitate. Form the sounds M, B, and P so he can copy them. Point to body parts like eye, ear, nose, etc., so he can see them in the mirror. Let him point to body parts or say them when you point to them.

Allows child to find himself in the mirror, to understand that he sees himself, to imitate, and to learn body parts.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Oatmeal or cornmeal box, spoon

Give the child the box and the spoon to use as a drum.

Allows child to use hands to make a noise.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Egg cartons, string or yarn

Fasten two egg cartons together with string. Tie another string onto the other end of one of the egg cartons so the child can use it as a pull toy.

Allows child to learn to move around while pulling something.

Area: Use of hands, use of large muscles

Materials: Paper bag, toys or safe objects

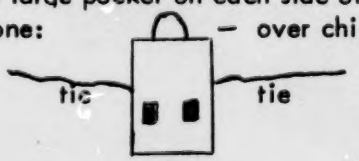
Give the child a paper bag with toys or objects inside. He will enjoy carrying it around, emptying it, and putting things back in it.

Allows child to carry bag and to practice putting in and taking out. Allows child to feel good about having something of his own to carry around.

Areas: Thinking, use of hands

Materials: Cloth, needle, thread

Make an apron for the child by cutting the material into a large rectangle and hemming the edges. Then sew a large loop of cloth to the top of the rectangle and a long strip of cloth to the two side edges of the rectangle for ties. Sew a large pocket on each side of the rectangle. It should look like this when done:



Let the child wear the apron and carry small toys in the pockets.

Allows the child to have an easy way to carry his toys.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Large can, non-clip clothespins

Give the child the can and the clothespins. You may have to show him how to put the clothespins on the rim of the can. Let him play with the can and clothespins however he wants. Be sure all sharp edges of the can are hammered down.

Allows child to try new things with can and clothespins.

Areas: Use of large muscles, use of small muscles, thinking

Materials: None

Take a walk with the child. Show him clouds, birds, leaves, buildings, trucks, etc. Talk about them. Collect things to take home. Let the child set the pace.

Allows child to enjoy nature and get fresh air and exercise.

Areas: Use of hands, thinking

Materials: Any old latches, hooks, locks, etc, that have no sharp edges, cardboard or wood to fasten them to

Attach the latches to the cardboard or wood so that the child can fasten and unfasten them.

Allows the child to figure out how to fasten and unfasten things.

LEVEL 4

These toys can be used when your child no longer puts things in his mouth. Keep using them until the child no longer wants to play with them.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Old tire, sand, plastic bowls, old spoons, etc.

Put the tire in the yard and fill it with sand. Give the child the bowls, spoons, and whatever else you can find and let him play.

Allows child to use his imagination and his hands, and to get dirty.

Areas: Hearing, using hands

Materials: Six plastic pill bottles the same size, beans, rice, and salt

Put beans in two bottles, rice in two bottles, and salt in two bottles. Put lids on tightly. Have child match the bottles by sound.

Allows child to use ears to tell the difference in sounds.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Scraps of cloth, thread, needle, dried beans

Make a bag with the cloth scraps in any way you want. Fill it with beans. Sew the top shut. Let child throw the beanbags. These are fairly safe to use in the house.

Allows the child to practice throwing.

Area: Use of hands, thinking

Materials: Paper bag and objects (jar lids, small plastic bottles, clothespins, etc.)

Put objects into paper bag. Let child reach into bag to feel them. See if he can tell you what he feels. Let him carry the bag around and take the toys out and put them back in.

Allows child to use sense of touch, and to use hands to take something out of a bag.

Areas: Talking, large muscles

Materials: Paper, pencil with eraser, straight pin or thumb tack

Cut square of paper. Then cut part way in from each corner. Fold one edge of each corner into middle, but do not crease. Pin the four corners to the

eraser of the pencil loosely. Pinwheel should turn freely when child blows it. Be sure pencil doesn't have a point on it. Only let child play with the pinwheel while you are there in case the pin or tack comes out. Let the child color the paper before the pinwheel is made.

Allows child to blow, which is important in making many speech sounds. Child may also wave the pinwheel to make it go round. This will allow him to practice working his arms.

Area: Work with hands

Materials: Plastic bowls, scoops, spoons, dried beans, peas, noodles, macaroni, etc., pan

Give the child the beans and several kinds of bowls, pans, spoons, scoops. Let him play, scooping, spooning, and dumping the beans from place to place. Putting a large cloth or piece of plastic beneath him makes picking up easier.

Allows child to use hands to pour, and allows him to figure out how to make different sounds as beans hit the containers.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Large plastic lids, large pieces of cardboard, crayons

Color a circle on each piece of cardboard. Lay the pieces of cardboard on the floor. Let child throw a lid to see if he can hit the cardboard. Use 3 or 4 pieces of cardboard colored in different colors. Show child how to throw cross-arm (begin with arm crossed over body and throw outward from there).

Allows child to try to hit target, allows child to learn to throw cross-arm.

Area: Work with hands

Materials: Cans or plastic bowls, objects such as clothespins, buttons, jug lids, spools, etc.

Give child cans and objects for free play. Give child large spoon or scoop also.

Allows child to use spoon to scoop, and to move objects from one place to another.

Areas: Thinking, work with hands

Materials: All sizes and shapes of cans

Be sure all sharp edges are hammered down. The more different kinds of cans you use, the more the child can make with them. Cans may be covered with paper or contact paper, if desired.

Allows child to stack, and to use him imagination to make things.

Area: Thinking, use of hands, talking

Materials: Non-clip clothespins

Clothespins can be hooked together in an X to make animals that stand up. Other clothespins can be placed in a square to form a field or barnyard.

Allows child to use his imagination. Also allows him to talk about animals and make animal noises.

Areas: Talking, large muscles

Materials: Paper, string, or yarn

Cut paper into a shape. Advertisements sent through the mail on colored paper work well. Poke a hole about one inch from the edge of the shape you cut. String the string or yarn through it and tie it. Let child blow the paper while holding the string to make the paper dance. Child can also run with the string in his hand to make the paper move. Several shapes can be strung on the same string. Child can also color pictures to string.

Allows child to learn to blow (this is important for making many speech sounds). It also allows him to practice running while doing something else.

Area: Talking

Materials: Cup, straw, laundry soap, water

Put about one inch of water in the cup. Add a little laundry soap. Let the child blow into the soap and water through a straw. Bubbles will fill the cup and can be blown into the air.

Allows the child to practice blowing, which is important for making many sounds used in talking.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Piece of heavy cardboard, several cans

Hammer down all sharp edges of the cans. Give the child the cans and the cardboard. He can carry the cans on the cardboard like a waiter.

Allows child to practice walking while carrying something.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Cloth, needle, thread

Cut two squares of cloth, about one foot on each side. Sew three sides together. Turn the bag inside out and hem the unsewn edge. Sew a strip of cloth one end on each side of the hemmed edge to make a handle. Let child use it to carry his "treasures" in.

Allows child to have something of his own to carry things in.

Area: Sense of touch, use of hands

Materials: 9 plastic oleo tubs, 3 dried foods (raisins, macaroni, rice, beans, etc.)

Put each dried food into two tubs. Have the child close his eyes and feel each food and match the two that are the same.

Allows the child to use his sense of touch to match things.

Area: Large muscles

Materials: Wastebasket or large bowl or pan, ball of paper

Let child play basketball by standing a few feet from the wastebasket, bowl, or pan and trying to throw the paper ball into the basket.

Allows the child to control the ball while throwing it.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Old keys, string or yarn

Wash old keys. Put them on string or yarn and tie it. Give them to the child so he can have keys just like Mom and Dad.

Allows child to use his imagination and to figure out the relationship of the keys to holes.

Area: Use of large muscles

Materials: Box, piece of cardboard, cardboard tubes

Put one end of the cardboard on a box and the other end on the floor to make an incline. Give child several sizes of cardboard tubes from toilet paper, Saran Wrap, paper towels, etc., to roll down the incline.

Allows child to discover what happens on an incline.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Laundry soap, water, food coloring, bowl, paper (junk mail is good)

Mix the laundry soap and water in the bowl until it feels like paste. Add food coloring of the child's choice. Let him finger paint on the paper with the soap paint.

Allows the child to get messy while using his hands.

LEVEL 5

These toys can be used when your child shows that he is trying to figure out how things work and how they fit together. Keep using them until the child no longer wants to play with them.

Areas: Talking, thinking

Materials: Empty cereal boxes, vegetable and fruit cans, milk cartons, liquid soap bottles, etc., large box, large paper bags

Use large box as counter to put empty containers on. Let child play "store." Groceries can be sacked in paper bags.

Allows child to talk and to use his imagination in playing.

Areas: Use of large muscles, use of hands

Materials: Liquid soap bottle, clothespins

Cut the top off the liquid soap bottle with a sharp knife or heavy scissors. Set the bottle on the floor. Have the child stand by it and try to drop the clothespins in.

Allows the child to practice getting something into a container with space between the object and the container.

Areas: Thinking, talking

Materials: Clothespins (not the clip clothespins), scraps of cloth or paper, glue, ink pen

Make a family of clothespin people. Draw a face on the head of the clothespin. Glue on cloth scraps or paper scraps for clothes.

Allows child to use imagination. Allows him to talk for the clothespin people.

Areas: Use of hands, thinking

Materials: Cardboard tubes of different sizes

Give the child the tubes and let him experiment with putting them inside each other, rolling them, stacking them, etc.

Allows the child to use his imagination to try different things with the tubes.

Areas: Use of hands, thinking

Materials: Old billfold, old identification cards, paper, ink pen

Use the paper and ink pen to make play money. Put the money and the cards in the billfold for the child to play with.

Allows the child to use his imagination to play "grown-up."

Areas: Work with hands, talking, thinking

Materials: Catalogs or magazines, scissors, glue, paper, yarn

Let child pick out pictures from a catalog or magazine. Help him cut them out and paste them on paper. Simple paste can be made from flour and water mixed to the same thickness as paste. Tie pages of book together with yarn. Let child tell you about pictures in the book.

Allows child to create something. Gives him a chance to talk about his book.

Areas: Talking, use of hands

Materials: Colors, paper bag, old newspaper, string or yarn

Help child draw a face on the side of the paper bag with the bottom up. Stuff the bag with wadded up newspaper. Tie the bag loosely with yarn or string. Child can stick his hand inside the bag and make the puppet talk. Scraps of paper can be glued on for the face.

Allows the child to create a puppet and to talk for the puppet.

Areas: Use of hands, thinking

Materials: Large zippers, large buttons, material scraps, box

Attach large zipper (from old coat, maybe) to the box with a large needle and heavy thread, or large staples (these might hurt child if not put in carefully, with sharp edges hammered down). Attach button on another side of box. Make a loop out of the material scraps and put it on the box so it can be used as a buttonhole.

Allows the child to learn how to button and zip, so he can help dress himself.

Area: Use of hands

Materials: Styrofoam meat tray, long shoestring

Poke several holes about 1/2 inch big in a clean meat tray. Give the child the tray and the lace, to allow him to lace the board.

Allows child to use hands to begin lacing.

Areas: Use of hands, thinking, talking

Materials: Junk mail

Junk mail can be used in a lot of different ways. Some suggestions are: Save ads that have nothing on the back for the child to draw on. Colored ads can be used for paper blowers, airplanes, etc. Interesting pictures can be used for a book or for child to talk about. Put junk mail back into envelopes. Use a paper bag as a mail bag and let the child play mailman. Think of more ideas on your own.

Allows child to use his imagination and to use his hands.

Areas: Thinking, using hands, talking

Materials: Boxes, small toys

Put small toys in boxes for the child to find. Have him tell you where the toy is. See if he can put the toy in the box for you to find.

Allows child to find something, to learn the relationship of "in," and to follow directions to put toy in box.

Areas: Thinking, work with hands

Materials: Several boxes that fit inside each other

Give the child the boxes to stack inside each other, or to stack in a tower. The boxes may be made brighter by covering with paper or cloth.

Allows child to figure out how to stack one thing on top of another, and to understand the relationship of a box fitting inside another box.

Areas: Thinking, working with hands

Materials: 6 cans that will fit inside each other

Hammer sharp edges of the cans. The cans may be covered with paper, contact paper, etc., if you want to. Let child stack cans upside down in a tower, or right-side-up as nesting cans.

Allows child to figure out how to stack from largest to smallest, and to understand the relationship of one can fitting inside another.

Areas: Thinking, working with hands

Materials: Cans with plastic lids, large buttons, wood blocks

Be sure wood blocks are sanded smooth. Hammer sharp edges of the cans. Cut hole large enough for buttons in one lid and cut a hole large enough for blocks in the other lid. Let child put buttons and blocks in cans.

Allows child to sort and to put objects through small openings.

Areas: Thinking, touching

Materials: Box with lid, objects such as plastic spoon, clothespin, etc.

Cut a hole large enough for the child to put his hand through in one end of the box. Place an object in the box and put the lid on it. Have the child reach in and feel the object and tell you what it is. Change the object and play again.

Allows the child to use his sense of touch to figure out what something is.

Area: Thinking

Materials: Blanket or tablecloth, 2 chairs

Put blanket or tablecloth over 2 chairs to make a tent for the child to play or "read" in.

Allows child a place to get away and play alone.

Area: Thinking

Materials: Large box

Every child needs to be alone from time to time to think, play, or look at books. A large box put in a corner somewhere gives him a place to go.

Allows child to be alone.

Areas: Use of large muscles

Materials: Plastic lids

Let child use lids as frisbees. These are fairly safe to use in the house.

Allows child to practice throwing.

Areas: Thinking, smelling

Materials: 6 containers with lids, peanut butter, dried onion, vinegar or other item with strong odor

Put each item into two containers. Have child, by use of smell (with eyes closed or blindfolded), match each two that are the same.

Allows child to use sense of smell to match things.

Areas: Thinking, use of hands

Materials: Crayon or pencil, light paper, objects such as a penny, a leaf, a button, etc.

Place an object under the paper and hold it down so that child can color over the top to make a copy of it on the paper.

Allows child to discover how copies of things can be made.

Areas: Thinking, use of hands

Materials: Styrofoam meat trays, pictures, glue

Glue a picture onto a meat tray. After glue dries, cut the picture into several curved pieces like a puzzle. Let the child try to put the puzzle together again.

Allows the child to use his mind and his hands to make several pieces into one whole object.

Areas: Thinking, use of hands

Materials: Oleo tubs or CoolWhip bowls or cottage cheese cartons with lids, objects such as buttons, jug lids, bottle lids, etc.

Give the child the tubs and the objects to sort. Let him sort them any way he wants to. When child is done playing, the objects can be stored in the tubs or bowls to be used again later.

Allows child to begin to tell the difference between objects.